

SPORTS

CAC GET THEIR 21st TITLE



The Central Army Club beat Kaunas Zalgiris 79-77 in their third final away game in extra time to win their 21st national basketball championship.

The closing games of these two-matched opponents graced the lengthy tournament, stressed chief national coach Alexander Gomelskiy. The teams, who fielded eight world champions between them, showed much fighting spirit and mastery. That CAC now have a worthy rival will only benefit Soviet basketball, he emphasized.

National champions Central Army Club ace Anatoly Myshkin in action.

Photo by Andrei Golovanov

DRAWS FOR EUROPEAN CUPS

As the result of a draw at the Zurich UEFA headquarters West German Hamburg, which eliminated Kiev Dynamo in the European Winners Cup quarter-finals, will play Spain's Real (San Sebastian) in the cup semi-finals. Italian Juventus will face Polish Widzew.

The Cup Winners Cup semi-final pairs are: Aberdeen (Scotland)—Waterford (Belgium); Arsenal (Australia)—Real Madrid.

The UEFA pots are: Bohemians (Czechoslovakia)—An-

BASKETBALL:

CUP HOLDERS KNOWN

In the Ronchetti cup finals at Mestre, Italy, Budapest basketball club BSE downed twice cup holders Spartak Moscow Region, 83-81, after two extra five-minute periods.

In the European Winners Cup finals at Mestre, Italian Venezia beat Düsseldorf Agn-03 76-67.

TENNIS: GUESTS STRONGER

The Belgian open championship was won by Australian Peter McNamara, who beat hot favorite Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 in the final.

The USSR team of Valentina Ponomareva, Irina Kovalenko, Tatiana

MAHRE TOPS AGAIN

American Phil Mahre totalled 285 points to pick up his third world Alpine skiing cup. Swede Ingemar Stenmark placed second with 218 and Mark Girardelli, of Luxembourg, third with 168 points.

20-year-old Tamara McKinney of the United States won the women's cup with 225 points, followed by Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein with 193 and Erika Hess of Switzerland, with 192 points.



Phil Mahre.

USSR TEAM

AT 'MOSCOW NEWS'-83 PRIZE

This year Soviet gymnasts at the "Moscow News" Prize will show compositions they have taken two years to prepare with their coaches for the Olympics, national men's team head coach Leonid Arkayev told an MNI correspondent shortly before the tournament, which gets underway at the Moscow Luzhniki Palace of Sport on 25 March.

There is nothing to hide now; the programmes are so complex as regard their technical merit that we've got to "polish" them in advance, he stressed. At this representative tournament my

colleagues and I decided to field young gymnasts who we think have a good hope of entering for the Olympics. They have record-complex combinations and perform them well.

Arkayev gives a high rating to Dmitry Bilozerchev who boasts "ultra C" elements in his arsenal. The other Soviet competitors are Stepan Martinkiv, Vladimir Artyomov and Radion Gabitov.

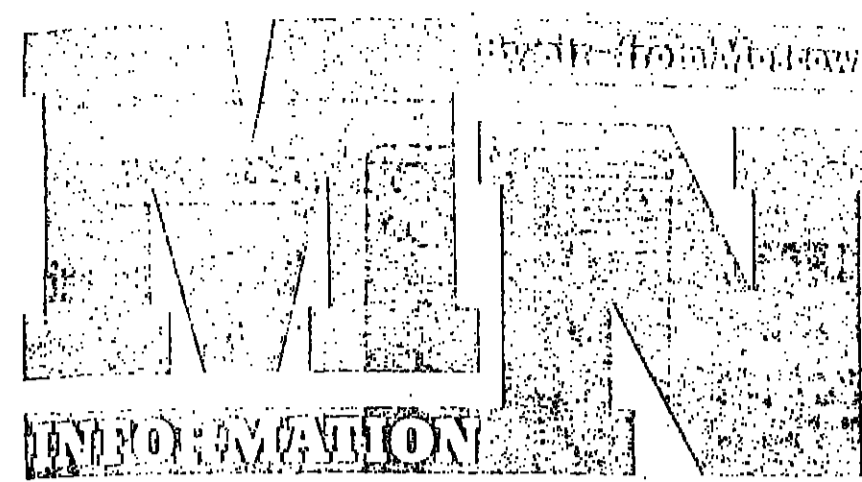
The women's team will be led by 1982 world cup and last year MN winner Natalya Yurchenko. Also included in the team by head coach Andrei Rodionov are Albina Shishova, Svetlana Murzunenko and Olga Mospanova. The coach stressed that for the latter three gymnasts the tournament will be an excellent trial for the May European championships.



Metallist and the Central Club clash in the national cup semi-final. Photo by Grigory Andryukhin.

SHAKHTYOR AND METALLIST MAKE FINALS

Donetsk Shakhtyor and Kharkov Metallist will clash in the national football cup final in Moscow on May 9 after the former disposed of Leningrad Zenit at home 4-2 on a penalty series (1-1 at time), while the latter edged the Central Army Club 1-0 in 30 minutes extra time.



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Yuri ANDROPOV: It is time to stop thinking scenarios of how best to unleash nuclear war in the hope of winning it

"NOT ONLY IS THIS OCCUPATION IRRESPONSIBLE, IT IS ALSO INSANE, SAID THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN AN INTERVIEW HE GAVE A "PRAVDA" CORRESPONDENT.

Yuri ANDROPOV stressed:

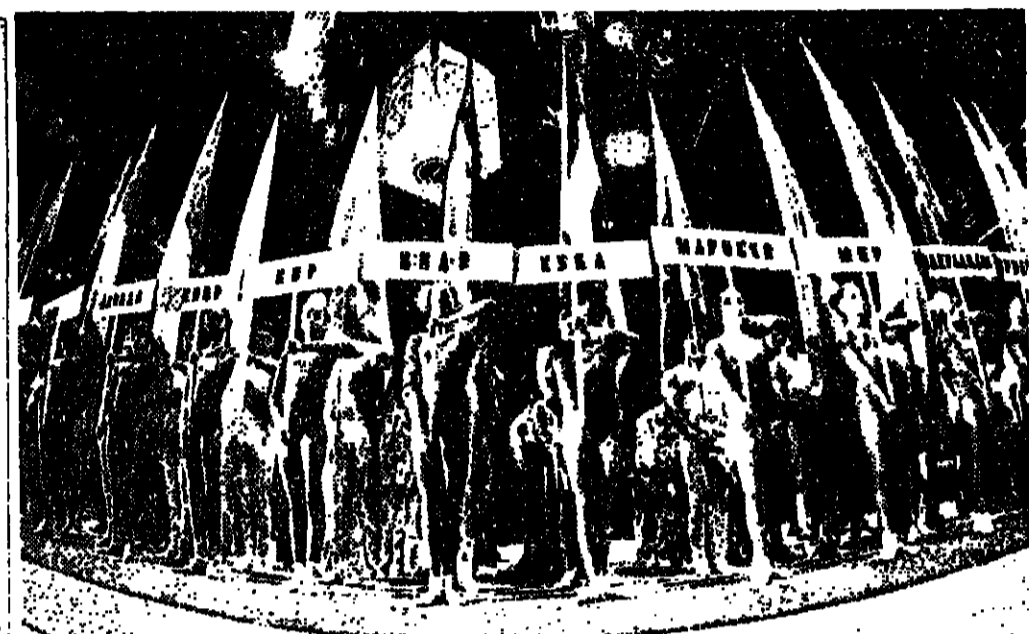
In its desire to substantiate its hegemonist claims, the United States unscrupulously distorts the Soviet Union's policies, using underhand tactics.

The military and strategic parity with the United States attained by the Soviet Union is a reliable guarantee of peace, so we shall do all we can to preserve it.

Reagan's new "defence doctrine" is designed to disarm the Soviet Union in the face of the American nuclear threat. Should it be translated into practice, this doctrine would in fact unleash the floodgates for an unbridled race in all types of strategic weapons.

The American leaders are trying to turn European countries into their nuclear hostages. Washington's actions threaten the entire world.

(For the full text of Yuri Andropov's interview see "Moscow News", No. 14)



Competitors on parade.

- As many as 107 gymnasts from 31 countries competed on March 23-27 in the Palace of Sport at the Lenin Central Stadium.
- Competitors from the USSR, China, the Korean People's Democratic Republic, Japan, the GDR and Romania won awards in the individual events.
- V/O Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga awarded special prizes to Choi Sen Sir, of the Korean People's Democratic Republic, and to Yang

- Yan-shan, of China, as the best foreign all-arounder.
- Natalya Yurchenko won the "Chunichi Shim-bun" award for the top female gymnast.
- The USSR Gymnastics Federation held seminars for foreign coaches on the methods underlying preparatory exercises and training.
- Watching the competition were 12,000 spectators and millions of TV viewers, the event being covered by Central TV.

(Continued on page 8)

KASPAROV QUALIFIES

(Continued from page 1)

na Goprindeshvili and Irina Levina are battling it out, with Levina leading 3-1. Liu Shilang of China, and Nana Ioseliani, of the USSR, have just

begun their match at Vitebsk, Austria, and Robert Hubner, of West Germany, and Viktor Smyslov, of the USSR, will clash there.

Viktor Smyslov chess about

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DEAR READERS,

"MN Information" comes out on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and offers in brief the latest information on events in the USSR and in the world reported by TASS and foreign news agencies. Nothing short of the material carried in the editions of both "Moscow News" and "MN In-

formation" gives you a full idea of life in the Soviet Union for the week.

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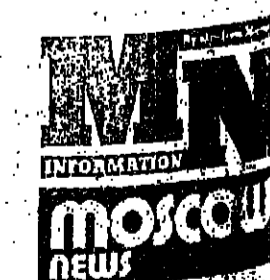
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SPRING VACATION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN



To children, spring holidays mean games in a fairy-tale town built in a modern city area, and rehearsals in the children's theatre.

Cleanrooms and laboratories are quiet, too, after days and nights in other parts of the country. For one week that elapsed March 24 when the children's museums and concert halls have participated in the traditional "Spring Week" the last vacation of the academic year began.

Thousands of schoolchildren spend their vacations travelling and taking part in various writers' camps and music camps.

J. Pérez de Cuellar in Moscow

I am pleased to have been invited by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yuri Andropov to visit the USSR, for it gives us an opportunity to discuss many matters, primarily those relating to disarmament. The opinion of your government is essential for the ultimate resolution of this problem, stressed UN Secretary-General, J. Pérez de Cuellar meeting members of the Soviet UN Association while on an official visit to the USSR.

Despite the fact that disarmament is frequently mentioned in the UN Charter, no progress has been made in this direction since the organization came into being. The time has come to launch a serious campaign for disarmament. Armaments eat up huge resources biting hard at the economies of the

developing and industrial nations, he pointed out.

The Secretary-General welcomed the new peace initiatives of the Soviet Union and of the other Warsaw Treaty member countries.

He went on to the need for a Soviet-American dialogue on disarmament leading towards a worldwide drive for complete disarmament.

Invoking his January meeting with President Reagan, he stressed that what he expects from such summits is not promises but action. To be sure, this does not have to be immediate action but rather the opening of talks which the other nuclear powers could later join.

The UN, can be instrumental in settling these vital problems, he emphasized.

Daniel Ortega on Nicaraguan-Soviet relations

Managua. The ties between Nicaragua and the Soviet Union have always and will continue to be fraternal solidarity, respect and mutual assistance, declared Daniel Ortega, who headed the Nicaraguan delegation which made a stop-over in Moscow on

his way home from the 7th Non-Aligned Summit. The Nicaraguan leader expressed profound satisfaction with the results of his meeting with Yuri Andropov, which, he said, had given a fresh impetus to the strengthening of friendship ties between the two countries.

REAGAN PAINTS A DISTORTED PICTURE

Washington. Reagan's warlike appearance on American television has been condemned by Thomas P. O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives in the American Congress, and by the Democratic Minority Leader in the Senate, Robert C. Byrd. In the official Democratic Party response read by Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Reagan is accused of a deliberate distortion of the actual balance of forces in order to get Congress to approve the sky-high military budget and to distract the Americans' attention from the horrifying failure of his economic policies.

The Senator noted that the president is intent on sowing fear in the hearts of Americans so as to lure them to the idea that nuclear war is inevitable.

Reagan tried to create a false impression that the United States was standing idly by, while the Soviet Union built up its nuclear arsenal.

The Senator stressed that the president knows full well that this is not true, and that he is painting a distorted picture.

Washington's intention to set up a system of anti-missile defences both on the ground and in outer space involving the use of the most advanced weapons has been described as extremely dangerous strategically by the well-known American scientist Professor F. Panofsky, of Stanford University. He pointed out that President Reagan was actually trying to draw American scientists into a new adventure modelled on the Manhattan project which led to

the creation of the nuclear bomb.

A group of 17 authoritative experts including such prominent scientists as Nobel Prize winners Professor H. Bethe, of the Cornell University, and Professor I. Rabi, of Columbia University, the astrophysicist J. Van Allen, and former director of the National Security Agency N. Gayler and others have sent a petition to the White House in which they stress the need to impose a ban on the deployment of all types of weapons in outer space around the earth.

Planned military expenditure for the next few years could be painlessly reduced by 150 thousand million dollars, said former Secretary of Defence Robert McNamara speaking in an ABC interview.



Look how high you have been able to elevate human rights with my aid.

Drawing by Vaselod Arsenyev

Australian government for nuclear-free zone in Pacific

Sydney. Having declared its desire to have the Pacific transformed into a zone of peace free of nuclear weapons, the Australian government has confirmed its readiness to translate one of the main foreign policy propositions made by the Australian Labour Party into practical terms.

Australia intends to start talks on this matter with other coun-

tries in the region, said the Australian Minister for Defence Gordon Scholes. In an interview with the newspaper "The Age", he noted that the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Southern Pacific was in the interests of Australia.

At the same time, the Australian minister made it clear that no changes could be expected in the close working relations between Australia and the United States as ANZUS partners.

AMERICA'S SPYING ACTIVITIES IN SPACE

Paris. Speaking of the wide-ranging American spying operations in space the French

Antenne-2 TV network stressed that America has crammed space with its spying satellites.

Mammoth intelligence satellites weighing between 15 and 20 tonnes, the programme presenter said, are in constant motion 200 to 300 kilometres above our heads, scanning every metre of the Earth's surface. A multitude of supersecret satellites, whose size, goals

and even placement in orbit are a closely guarded secret, are launched from a military base in California.

The Columbia shuttle launched last June on its fourth mission carried units, in particular a high resolution telescope, which was used to observe the Earth's surface. Several of the future shuttle flights, the programme stressed, will be mainly for intelligence purposes.

divisions are to be added to the army reserve units.

The directive gives much attention to developing space war weapons, and no less than 15 F-15 planes with antisatellite missiles on board are to be made available to the armed forces by 1987.

Alongside the development of the basic types of the armed forces, the directive places emphasis on boosting the power and mobility of the interventionist rapid deployment force, as well as on special sabotage units, which are to be covertly interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states in various regions. Adding to this preparations for wide use of chemical agents and neutron ammunition designed exclusively for killing humans, including civilians, one gets a clear picture of what exactly the United States plans to use in various combat actions, which it is to be ready for by 1989.

But how does all this sinister preparation relate to the current disarmament talks?

In fact Washington is carrying out another "dual decision", though on a grander scale than regarding the Euro-missiles. The talks are taking their own course while the unusually vast arms programmes which the talks were designed to limit and reduce are taking their

USAF will get five wings of 72 advanced tactical fighters each, and the total number of such wings will go up to 42 by 1988.

The US Army will also get new tanks, artillery systems and other military hardware, and two

RESPONSE

Washington out to 'convince'

The United States is eager to place its cruise missiles in Europe and to try them out in Canada, seeking to shift responsibility on to its allies and to bind them fast to the military policy being pursued by the current administration.

Anything goes in this case — the "Soviet threat" intimidations, the erosion of the anti-war movement or the direct pressure brought to bear on its NATO partners — the latest indication of which being American Vice-President G. Bush's visit to the Canadian capital.

According to the "Citizen", a Canadian paper, Bush sought to "convince" his interlocutors of the need to "contribute" towards bolstering the solidarity and unity of the NATO countries and upholding the Reagan administration's foreign policy.

The word "convince" is hardly appropriate in this context, what with Washington's usual treatment of its allies, specifically Canada. Whatever the issue under discussion — whether it was the "acid rain" dripping chemical poison from American territory to Canada or the dispute over the exploitation of the oceanic shelf close to the shores of both nations — the United States has always preferred policy of an arm-twisting to that of convincing argument.

Vladimir BRODITSKY

ISRAEL TO BLAME

Beirut. That the critical situation in Lebanon continues to do to Israel which resorts to all kinds of delaying tactics to perpetuate its occupation, said the Lebanese Prime Minister C. Wazzan. Israel, he pointed out in an interview to the national information agency, is putting forward conditions that are damaging to the sovereignty and contradict the interests of our state.

Conference backs peoples in South Africa

Lisbon. Nearly 70 countries and dozens of national and international organizations, including a delegation of the Soviet Union, have held a conference of solidarity with the national liberation and peace in the south of Africa.

Delegates discussed the situation in the south of the African continent. They angrily condemned both the apartheid system and the role of South Africa in the Israeli-Arab conflict and American-led international imperialism as aiding with this regime.

Three final papers were approved by delegates — the declaration of the Lisbon programme of action and an appeal to all governments of all countries and to the world public. These documents contain a profound analysis of developments in South Africa and propose specific measures in order to expand all-round help to the national liberation movements in the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the African National Congress in South Africa (ANC).

Pentagon myths

Washington. The Washington Centre for Defense Information has exposed the falsified data contained in the Pentagon brochure "Soviet Military Power".

A special report by retired rear-admiral G. Larogue, the director of this authoritative public organization, stresses that the brochure contains groundless allegations, misleading diagrams and panicky myths. It was published by the administration to intimidate the Americans opposed to the United States' policy of a massive arms build-up and to secure the implementation of the five-year Pentagon programme envisaging military expenditure to the tune of 2,000,000 million dollars.

It is specifically pointed out in the report that NATO military expenditure for 1971-80 exceeded the defence spending of Warsaw Treaty members by 300,000 million dollars.

NARASIMHA RAO ACCUSES UNITED STATES

New Delhi. Narasimha Rao, Minister of Foreign Affairs of India, has strongly denounced the American administration's open support for the subversive separatist elements who are hatching plans to create an independent Sikh state, by the name of Hailistan in the north-west of that country. Speaking in debates in parliament, he underlined that the granting of a visa by the American government to the self-styled President of Hailistan J. S. Chauhan directly affected the interests of India's integrity. The minister pointed out that the Indian government had warned the United States that those actions could only have a negative impact on Indian-American relations.

Italy: attempts to stifle the P-2 affair

Rome. The Italian press is unanimous in its condemnation of the attempt to put an end to the case which arose out of the exposure of the activities of the P-2 Masonic Lodge. The condemnation follows the decision taken by Judge B. Castillo of Rome to discontinue further investigations and to remove all charges against members of the Lodge.

Judge Castillo maintains that the sole inspiration behind and leader of the P-2 Lodge was Lj. de Gelli, and, therefore, it is necessary to wait for the results



A US Marine at the Beirut International airport. The United States has already established its control over several strategic points in Lebanon and intends to increase the number of its Marines in the country to between 4,000 and 5,000.

Invitation to dialogue

Vientiane. The drive to turn South-East Asia into a zone of peace, friendship and cooperation is the main direction of the foreign policy of Vietnam. Laos and Kampuchea, stressed Laotian foreign minister Phoun Sipaseuth. This goal is fully in line with the noble ideas and aspirations of the non-aligned movement and all peoples of the region.

We are steadfast and adamant in the belief, he told the "Siang Passong" newspaper, that all matters relating to South-East Asia should be settled by negotiation among the states of the region without any outside pressure.

A real basis for settling these problems could be the constructive peace initiatives repeatedly launched lately by the Indochinese states, specifically the results of a recent summit of leaders of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea in Vientiane. We are convinced, he continued, that the government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea is the sole legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people.

We hope, he went on to say, that the ASEAN nations will show their sincere desire for dialogue and for a joint quest for ways to promote stability and cooperation in South-East Asia.

Science and technology

AUDI-100 WINS RENOWN

Newsmen from 18 European countries voted the West German Audi 100 as the best car of the year. It boasts the lowest air resistance coefficient yet achieved in a commercially built car, 0.30, and good economy.

PLASTIC

ELECTRODES

Not so very long ago the term "plastic metals" might have caused surprise. Today, a whole range of polymers have been discovered which, although structurally akin to conventional plastics, have many of the properties of metals, such as electrical conductivity, for instance. One such polymer derived from acetylene has been produced by researchers at Pennsylvania State University. They believe that this "plastic metal" is suitable for the manufacture of electrodes for the storage batteries of the electromotors of the future.

Experiments have shown that the capacity of such batteries is ten times that of conventional lead accumulators. They do not exude harmful substances in accidents, and can be recharged up to 1,000 times. In addition, the plastic electrodes, and, consequently, the storage batteries themselves, can be made in any shape. They therefore can be placed in any part of a vehicle — in the doors, under the mudguards, or beneath the hood.

OF INTEREST

There once was a thief from Utrecht

A thief from the Dutch city of Utrecht came to grief after he tried to push a silver flute he had stolen from a store. He offered it to the members of an amateur orchestra, little knowing they were city policemen. Their suspicions aroused by the small sum asked for the flute, the musician decided to detain the thief until the police arrived.

Pike gets its own back

Swedish angler Bolet Ström will long remember the following episode. Once dangling his

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

AMERICAN IMPERIAL AMBITIONS

A new tilt in American policy is visible via the prism of the developments in Lebanon — the reliance on a direct American presence in both the Middle East and in other parts of the world, writes A. Kishin in PRAVDA.

It is precisely in this way that one should view the creation of the "rapid deployment force", the "Central Command of the Armed Forces of the United States" (CENTCOM), the military bases abroad, etc. — all steps which fully conform to Washington's strategic premises. Thus in the new military strategy devised by the Pentagon for 1984-1989 ensuring American access to the oil of the Middle East takes second place (coming after the "defence" of North America and NATO countries) in the list of priority goals. Kishin points out:

This course was originally outlined in the so-called Carter doctrine announced in January 1980. Later it was further developed in President Reagan's directive on the creation of CENTCOM.

By creating this command whose sphere of operation spans 19 states from East Africa to the Indian Peninsula, the United States is in fact claiming the "right" to exercise military domination over a vast area of the globe, the author emphasizes.

GREECE STANDS FOR PEACE AND GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS

The anti-war course followed by Greece after the overthrow of the military junta is causing displeasure in Washington, writes IZVESTIA's correspondent in Athens Daria Lipovsk.

It was with irritation that the Americans reacted to Greece's decision to support the idea of setting up nuclear-free zones in Europe as well as measures to limit military confrontation on the continent. Attempts to exert pressure on Athens in order to effect a change in the foreign policy pursued by the present government are also being made at the Greek-American negotiations now under way on the future of the American military bases in Greece. Judging by newspaper reports, Washington is trying to persuade Athens to give up its demands for the removal of the unambiguous dates and a procedure to be set up for the removal of American military installations from the country.

Greece made its demand in order to exclude the possibility of its territory being used against the interests of states with whom it maintains friendly and diplomatic relations.

A NATION IN EXILE

The Palestinian people have a varied and legitimate right to the revival of their homeland, writes A. Alexeyev and A. Norn in the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper. They stress that as a result of the seizure by Israel of lands which, under the UN Resolution of November 29, 1947, were assigned for the Palestinian Arab state, the expulsion of the overwhelming majority of the native population of Palestine from their historical homeland and of the incessant acts of aggression, only 1.6 million Palestinians have been left in Israel itself and in the occupied territories (i.e., within the geographical borders of the former mandated Palestine), out of a nation with a total population of over 4 million. Sixable Palestinian communities have been isolated in Jordan (1.1 million people), Lebanon (400 thousand), Syria (250 thousand), Kuwait (180 thousand) and other Arab states.

Without the solution of the Palestinian problem, which is a key issue, it is impossible to establish peace in the Middle East, notes the author.

WHAT THE DUSHMAN GANGS ARE PAID FOR?

The American administration has officially allocated over 320 million dollars for the psychological conditioning and training of mercenaries smuggled into Afghanistan, writes A. Stepanov, special correspondent of the NEW TIMES weekly.

In the past two years alone the construction has started of dozens of camps near the Pakistani cities of Peshawar, Parachinar, Miram Shah and Quetta in addition to the existing 80 centres where hired assassins are trained.

Stepanov quotes the following official statistics to show the scope of the undeclared war waged by American imperialism against Afghanistan. Dushman gangs have destroyed 1,614 schools, 31 hospitals, 111 medical centres. Over 600 heavy-duty lorries — 14 per cent of the country's truck fleet — have been burnt, and 14,000 kilometres of communication lines and 600 peasant cooperatives destroyed.

However, it is not these shameful deeds that determine the life of present day Afghanistan. The revolution is continuing, and no hostile forces will be able to hold up its victorious progress, Stepanov stresses in conclusion.

VIEWPOINT

Svyatoslav KOZLOV*

Trillions of dollars against disarmament

Only a year ago, the White House named the dizzying figure of 1,600,000 million dollars when planning "America rearmament" spending for the next five years. Now that the programme is already in the works its cost has been estimated at 7,750,000 million and the Pentagon is pushing its weight around in Congress to get yet more funds.

The experience of the past years shows that this spending will outstrip the sought-for figure, and not only owing to inflation. This is quite understandable. The Pentagon has long been a mechanism for funneling state money into the coffers of military industrial monopolies, and this "mechanism" has been steadily on the upswing to keep pace with the

growing appetites of the military industrial complex in the nutritive atmosphere of military psychosis.

What would the Pentagon want with such enormous funds? This is clear from an early March Pentagon directive leaked to the "Defense Week" magazine despite it being a top classified document. It confirmed that the Pentagon still plans prime emphasis on joining superiority over the USSR in nuclear armaments. More specifically it envisages the manufacture, by 1986, of a hundred intercontinental MX missiles and the deployment of new strategic sea-based Trident-2 rockets by 1989. By this time an additional 11 nuclear-powered submarines with ballistic missiles are to be added to the naval force. The document states the US intention to deploy new Pershing-2 and



* S. Kozlov, Major-General, Ret., is an APN political analyst.

Prehistoric creatures as advertisers

Owners of a large department store in Zurich have resorted to an unusual type of advertisement by including huge skeletons and stuffed prehistoric animals in their window displays.



PEOPLE

Last year a Negro couple, Philip and Barbara Butler, residents of Prince Georges county, had the special honour of playing host to no less a person than President Ronald Reagan.

That the visit happened in the Butler household was no accident — prior to it "The Washington Post" had written of a heinous harassment campaign unleashed by local racists against the couple who had dared to settle in this "white area".

The president spent a long time exchanging handshakes with Philip and Barbara, sermo-

nizing against the campaign, bravely insisting that there was no place for racism in America and promising that measures would be taken to make sure such things never happen again.

Yet even if the Butlers believed the reassurances of their high-placed visitor they turned out to be wrong, as the racists resumed the harassment campaign a little while later.

Asked of a recent press conference whether Reagan proposed to interfere and end the Butlers' harassment, the White House deputy press secretary said the president had already shown his anxiety when he visited them last year.

Round the Soviet Union

● THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ATOMIC HEATING STATION HAS STARTED IN THE BYELORUSSIAN CAPITAL MINSK. In addition to achieving considerable savings in fuel it will also provide heat and electricity to a residential area with a population of 400 thousand.

● AN AUTHENTIC LETTER BY LEO TOLSTOY HAS BEEN FOUND IN THE MUSEUM ARCHIVES OF CHERDYNI — A SMALL TOWN IN THE URALS. It was written in 1900 to a peasant named Andrei Vlasov, but had not reached its destination for unknown reasons. The great writer had a lengthy correspondence with the peasant. Scholars are of the opinion that Vlasov served as a model for one of the characters in Tolstoy's "Resurrection".

● GEOLOGISTS HAVE DISCOVERED A HUGE UNDERGROUND LAKE IN THE ROCK-STREWN DESERT IN THE EASTERN PART OF KAZAKHSTAN. The specialists were surprised by the huge area: 20 thousand hectares. The water in the lake would be enough for the population of the city which is planned for the area near a newly found copper ore deposit.

● NEW HOME ROUTES WILL BE OPENED THIS YEAR BY THE USSR'S AEROFLOT AIRLINE. Most of them will reach new Siberian and Far Eastern towns where rich mineral deposits are being developed. As a rule, before railways and roads are built, planes provide the only link to these towns.

GAS NO HINDRANCE TO OIL

The Fyodorovskoye oil field near Surgut has become an experimental living ground in Western Siberia. In the northern part, construction has begun of a complex, the first in the area, for the extraction of liquid fuel from stratified reservoirs.

From such reservoirs, oil cannot be extracted in the usual manner, as the gas caps the oil, driving it away from the well. The aim of the experiment is to find out how to isolate the gas so as to obtain the oil in a conventional way. Stratified reservoirs are estimated to contain hundreds of millions of tonnes of fuel. This means that since such spots are closer to inhabited areas, there is no need to go far away to set up oil fields. Establishment of the experimental oil field has been started by oil workers from Tyumen only after thorough preparations. The oil field is broken down into four sections, based on their geological structure, each section having a programme of its own. The workers here will select the best types of the production and injection wells, take measures to combat petro-



Navigation conditions being imitated in a simulator wheelhouse.

CAPTAIN PLAY AT SEA

Captains no longer need to put to sea to show their skill in negotiating the English Canal, the Bosporus or other no less busy sea lanes. At a Simulation Research Centre belonging to the USSR Ministry of Merchant Marine, which was recently built at the Leningrad seaport, all navigational conditions: lights of oncoming ships, buoys, etc., are reproduced including crisis situations enabling officers to test their skills. A group of captains recently "arrived"

back safe and sound from their test voyages having braved all the hazards simulated by a computer.

The training complex incorporates five simulators requiring officers to choose optimal solutions to computer-modelled problems under conditions of simulated reduced visibility or collision hazards.

Load handling is also simulated by computers.

ATOMIC GIANT

The Kirov plant in Kharkov has produced a two-turbine unit for the world's largest 1,500,000 kW nuclear power unit to be used at the Ignalina nuclear plant now under construction in Lithuania.

The new turbine sets a national record for low metal consumption in atomic turbines. It weighs nearly the same as its 500,000 kW forerunner while it is 150 per cent more powerful. This has been achieved by special steels and original calculations by Moscow, Leningrad and Kharkov scientists.

MUSSEL FARMS

Cheap, seasoned, long protein seaweed and mollusk addition for stock and poultry, medium produced from sea life, value: biologically active substances — can get all this from developing the sea shell.

Crimean researchers and fishermen became the first to start solving this problem: establishing farms for growing mussels and seaweeds.

They have to choose sites for breeding — invertebrates, sea weeds, and fishes and decide which of them are most promising. For now, they concentrate their efforts on mussels and a number of seaweed species which can be used as foodstuffs and raw material in some industries.

Less valuable sea products will go for feeding stock and poultry.

Creating sea farms goes hand in hand with building up purification equipment and developing marine species capable of sailing. Not only seaweeds but mussels are fit for this too. Just one mussel mollusk is capable of purifying 10 litres of water a day. Mussels and seaweeds operating jointly in the Crimean resort areas, and natural biological filters which protect them from industrial pollution.

Places to visit



DEDICATED TO PETER THE GREAT

Leningrad, the city founded by Peter the Great on the banks of the Neva, has many places connected with his memory. The upper photo shows the famous Bronze Horseman by Fyodor Pulkov (Peter's head was created by Falconet's assistant, Marie-Anne Collot).

The monument rests on a rock weighing 1,800 tonnes, which was found outside Petersburg (this is how the city was named from 1703 to 1811).

Peter the Great's Summer Palace, in the Summer Gardens, was built in 1704-14 by the architect Trezzini (bottom photo). Now it is a museum showing Peter's personal belongings, furniture and other items of Peter's age. The Summer Gardens boasts the world's oldest and finest collection of garden sculptures — about 100 masterpieces by 17th-18th-century Venetian masters.



OF INTEREST

Visitor from the Neolithic Age

The find made by the seventh-form schoolboy Lomashchenko from the town of Kamensk in the Bokhansk district of the Irkutsk Region could be the envy of experienced archaeologists. He brought to the school museum a gypsum bust made by a sculptor who lived in the Neolithic Age. Never before has such an antique find been made on the banks of the Angara River. The sculpture made with a flint cutting tool represents a Mongoloid-type person with the eyes of a European.

Miniatures on buttons

Theatrical artist Stolyarov of Barnaul collects old buttons. He has hundreds of them made out of bronze, copper and tin. They are decorated in the best tradition of the art of the miniature. Some buttons, which depict a bomb in flames and a torch, were worn by Russian artillerymen during the war with Napoleon, others with a lyre, a mask and an artist's palette belonged to students in the school of painting, sculpture and architecture in St Petersburg.

CENTENARIANS OF AMUR VILLAGE

Uchi, a small ethnic group in the Soviet Far East who live in the taiga village of Bulava, celebrated for the first time the centenary of a local inhabitant. It was Dildik Yakul who turned 100. Over forty children, grand and great-grandchildren of this woman came to the village for the great occasion.

Among the descendants of this centenarian, who learned to read and write only at the age of 50, are teachers, doctors, farm machine operators, technicians and engineers. The children of Uchi, traditional hunters and fishermen, formerly illiterate, have mastered many of the modern professions and trades.

We have never had any centenarians among our people before, said Lukerya Olchi, chairman of the village Soviet. Before the October Revolution of 1917 the average lifespan of the Uchi people was less than forty years. Whole villages of Uchi and other local nationalities died out because of poverty, hunger and diseases. This led nineteenth-century sociologists to the conclusion that the small ethnic groups of the Far East would soon become extinct.

PHYSICAL FITNESS ON THE SHOP FLOOR

A recreation ground has been built right on the shop floor at the Verkh steel mill, in the Urals. It includes running tracks and rib-stalls as well as a lot of other athletic equipment. Fatigue can be relieved in 15 to 20 minutes in these mini stadiums, with a resulting improvement in workers' health.

HANDICRAFTS FROM ESTONIA



The handicrafts show of objects produced by amateur craftsmen from the constituent republics working in the decorative and applied arts continues at the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements.

At the end of last week it was Estonia's turn to display its talents in this field.

The decorative and applied arts occupy an important place in the culture of this Baltic republic. The manufacture of tapestries and lace-making is very popular in Estonia while the leather goods, wickerwork, furniture, embroidery, and painted porcelain produced in the republic have gained wide recognition.

In the photos amateur craftsmen demonstrate their art.

Science and technology

FORECAST Eruption

In the Kamchatka Peninsula the Klyuchevskoy Volcano, the biggest in Eurasia, has erupted, confirming the prediction made by scientists who forecast that the lava and incandescent gases would break through a lateral crater at the height of nearly three thousand metres.

At first, heavy fog did not permit observation of the eruption. As soon as the weather set in, a group of scientists from the Institute of Volcanology at the Far Eastern Centre of the USSR Academy of Sciences flew around the volcano, registering the flow of the lava, which caused a flow and a subsequent landslide more than ten kilometres long. However, as it is running down far away from the populated areas, it presents no threat to local people. A team of volcanologists have been landed in the area of the eruption.

The seismic method for short-term prediction of eruption is finding a successful application. It helped predict precisely the eruption of Fedchenko in 1955, and now it has been used on the Klyuchevskoy Volcano. Daily information is being obtained by all the seismic stations in Kamchatka registering the earth tremors. It is sent to the Institute where it is processed and analysed. This allows to calculate rather accurately the time and place of the eruption of the fiery bowels of the earth.

HEALTH-GIVING BEES

Doctors in the Kuznetsk coal-field area in the central Russian Federation have started to use bee-bite treatment. The curative effect of the apitherapy, consisting of a specific quantity of bites, has been known in medicine for a long time. Bee venom gives effective help to patients suffering from nerve root syndrome and rheumatism. However, because of the previously primitive method of application, this method could not be used on a massive scale.

Scientists from the Kemerovo Medical Institute, together with beekeepers, have created special "medical" beehives, which allow bees to be kept indoors, as well as an appliance for holding the bees and placing them on the required sections of the patient's skin.

This allows bee therapy to be used all year round. Hundreds of patients have successfully passed through the new method of treatment.

VIEWPOINT

Theatre is the best medium for international communication

Vladimir VASILYEV, a soloist of the Bolshoi Theatre of the USSR

Last Sunday this year we celebrated World Theatre Day for the 22nd time. The motto of the Day is: "Theatre is an effective means of promoting understanding and stronger peace among nations".

On this day theatres presented their best productions prepared for the 80th anniversary of the USSR, which was celebrated in December 1962.

"Theatre is the best medium for nations to speak to each other and for revealing and understanding people's most cherished emotions and thoughts". This was said more than fifty years ago by Konstantin Stanislavsky, the outstanding reformer of the theatre, but it has lost none of its topicality today.

The Soviet Union is a member of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), an international agency functioning under the aegis of UNESCO, uniting the theatre workers in more than 60 countries. Soviet theatre workers take an active part in exchange with their colleagues abroad — both in matters of theory and practice.

This exchange is greatly facilitated by the International seasons of the Theatre des Nations, congresses, symposiums, seminars, and professional talks and meetings of theatre people in various countries. At the present time, Moscow is the site of a seminar devoted to the development of Russian and Soviet ballet traditions. It is held under the leadership of Professor Grigorovich, the President of the Bureau Committee of the International Theatre Institute, principal ballet master of the Bolshoi Theatre of the USSR. About 60 delegates have come for the seminar from 24 countries, including Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Cyprus, the USA, and Sweden. In April the All-Russian Theatre Society will hold a meeting in Moscow of theatre workers of the socialist countries.

In our country Soviet people have an opportunity to see performances of the best foreign companies, both classical and modern. It has become a tradition to hold Days of Culture, festivals of plays of writers from other socialist countries. From April 18 to April 25 Moscow will be the venue for a festival of Romanian plays, and a festival of Czechoslovak plays will be held in December. The Soviet Union invites artistic directors from other countries to stage foreign plays here.

Whole teams are also invited. The scope and scale of contacts is increasing. The number of visits paid by Soviet theatre companies and separate artistic directors to other countries keeps growing. This year Oleg Tabakov will work in the FRG, Yuri Lyubimov in Italy and Britain, Mark Zakharov in the GDR.

World Theatre Day is a great occasion for all theatre workers. It is a great occasion for spectators to whom we devote our efforts, imagination, ideas and professional achievements.

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

NORTHERN RIVERS TO FLOW SOUTHWARDS

The distribution of productive forces in this country becomes more and more dependent on the availability of water, writes *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta*.

The Soviet national economy consumes approximately 350 cubic kilometres of natural water, or less than 8 per cent of the country's renewable water discharge a year. However, the availability of water differs greatly from one area to another. For example, Uzbekistan consumes as much as 71 per cent of its natural water resources.

That is why the project of turning southwards part of the discharge of Siberian rivers to Central Asia and Kazakhstan, becomes ever more attractive. Likewise some northern rivers can be diverted to replenish the Volga. It has already been planned to create several pilot irrigation systems covering 1,000-1,500 hectares each in the Kustanai, Kurgan, and Turgai regions. The results thus obtained will provide the basis for future major irrigation projects to be located along the route of the planned canal. The main canal for directing water from Siberian rivers to the Sea of Azov will stretch for 2,000 kilometres.

COOPERATION NEEDED IN STUDYING OCEAN

Academician Leonid Brekhnevskikh writes in the *SO-*

VIETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper on what the exploration of the ocean has to offer mankind. Nearly a third of all the world's oil comes from wells drilled in the ocean bottom, he says. By the start of the next century the share of "sea oil" will apparently reach 50 per cent. The so-called iron manganese concretions are of major interest for the industry of developed countries. Research carried out by Soviet expeditions aboard the "Vityaz", "Akademik Kurchatov", "Dmitry Mendeleev" and other ships has proved that these formations (which take the form of peculiar rust-coloured "potatoes" in schistose structures) are to be found over sizeable areas of the World Ocean. Their resources are estimated at 2,000,000-3,000,000 million tonnes. It is already economically profitable to extract nickel, cobalt and copper from these "potatoes" and at the beginning of the next century, by which the "land" mines will be exhausted, the extraction costs of molybdenum, zink and lead will have been repaid.

Today when the world has reached the maximum norm as far as the catch of fish and sea products is concerned, the outlook continues, it is necessary to determine the regularities of the development of life in the ocean and on their basis to determine its biological productivity and, in the final count, to learn to control it.

In coastal waters this task is already being solved by the many sea farms that have been established, Brekhnevskikh concludes.

ROBOT IN A UNIVERSITY

MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA wrote an article about the many new uses for mechanical manipulators and

stressors that more advanced robots are starting to appear. This means that robots will soon find application in many more industries. The newspaper believes that universities will soon employ mechanical manipulators as well. The Moscow Aviation Institute has become the first to include robot technology in its programme — one of its departments has assembled a robot complex. It is used to punch out various workpieces. Students are now able to see a robot-aided technological process for themselves and learn how to control it. The manipulator will help students do their labs, that is, it will act as a teaching aid.

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

Pre-school education occupies a special place in the educational system of our country, writes *Izvestiya*. 130,000 kindergartens and crèches are attended annually by nearly 15 million children, with parents paying only 20 per cent of the real cost. The remaining 80 per cent is covered from public consumption funds. State investment in pre-school education, stresses the paper, is constantly growing. For example, in 1971-73 it amounted to 17,000 million roubles and it will reach 23,000 million roubles in the 11th five-year plan period.

The social significance of pre-school education is difficult to overestimate, notes the paper. The absence of pre-school facilities may influence a family in its decision to have a second or third child. Pre-school education also makes a significant contribution to the equality of women, and provides children with an equal start in life as is possible.

